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NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

TERRA

ANNUAL REPORT ISSUE



On Exhibit in Exposition Park

SYNTHIA SAINT JAMES: Recent Picture Books

Second Floor Elevator Hallway, January 27 through
March 25, 2001

In observance of African American History Month, the Natural History Museum will show a collection of Ms. Saint James' most recent work. Twenty brilliant illustrations from five of her children's books will be displayed. An internationally renowned artist, Ms. Saint James sold her first painting in New York City when she was nineteen. She has garnered numerous awards nationally and internationally for her artwork, including awards from the Society of Illustrators, the Coretta Scott King Honor, and a Parent's Choice Silver Award. She is best known for the Kwanzaa stamp, which is the first holiday stamp ever commissioned by the United States Postal Service to an African American.



©1990 SYNTHIA SAINT JAMES

A COMMUNION OF THE SPIRITS: African American Quilters, Preservers, and Their Stories

Dart Gallery, March 16 through September 3, 2001

A Communion of the Spirits is a collection of 175 color and black-and-white photographs, fifteen quilts, forty unique quilted mattes, related paintings, and wood sculptures. This exhibition represents more than twenty-five years of research by national award-winning photojournalist and folklorist, Roland L. Freeman. It provides a vibrant look at African American women quilters, male quilters, and well-known quilt makers and preservers, such as civil rights activist Rosa Parks; author Maya Angelou; former Spelman College President, Johnetta B. Cole; founder/artistic director of *Sweet Honey in the Rock*, Bernice Johnson Reagon; writer Alice Walker; and Washington, D.C.'s master quilter, Viola Canady. This exhibit sponsored by Union Bank of California.

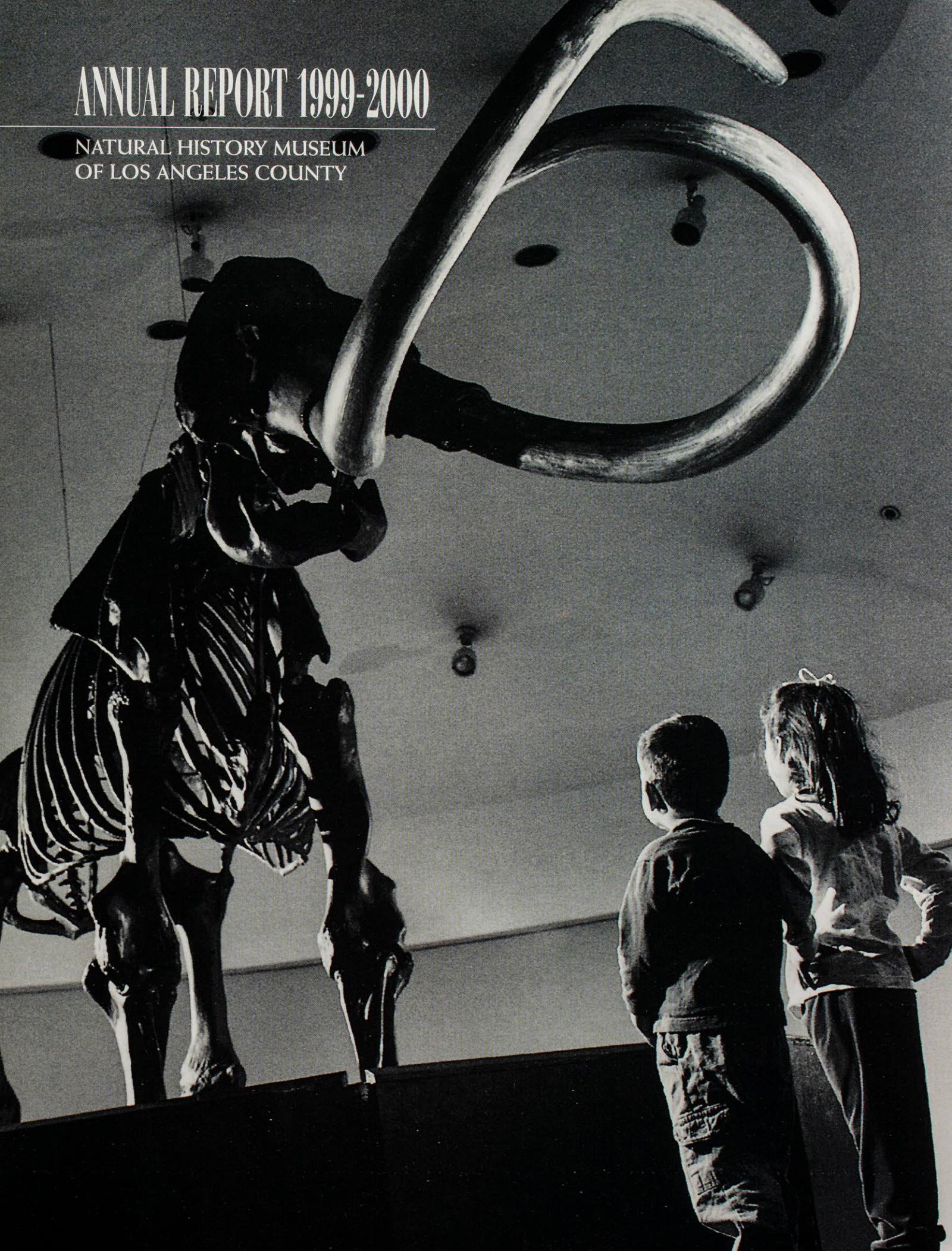
COVER: "Heroic Figures" by Julia Bracken Wendt is a bronze allegorical group representing History, Science, and Art and is the first public statue funded by Los Angeles County in 1914. Gracing the museum's rotunda, its dominant theme is light, symbolizing truth and typified by the illuminated sphere held in the arms of the three graces. Photograph by Marc Carter.



Photograph ©2000 Roland L. Freeman

ANNUAL REPORT 1999-2000

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY



Every year, the winter issue of *TERRA* is combined with the annual report as a way of reporting to members and to the museum community at large the "state of the museum."

This year, in addition to reporting on the museum itself, we are uncovering some of the museum's "hidden treasures," a few among the more than thirty-three million specimens and artifacts that comprise the museum's collections. None of the objects found in this issue are currently on display, but each has a story to tell of the breadth and depth of the museum's holdings. Many more of these treasures will be revealed in the new museum being planned.



COVER:

At the George C. Page Museum La Brea Discoveries, the towering Columbian mammoth (*Mammuthus columbi*) captures the attention of Nico and Marlene Heyning, ages three and five. This mammoth was one of the largest of the elephants that lived in North America during the Ice Age and stands twelve feet tall at the shoulder.

ANNUAL REPORT 1999-2000

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

July 1, 1999–June 30, 2000

*Natural history museums are
sentinel observatories of life on Earth,
peering over its past 3.8 billion years
and assaying its present condition.
Now is the time for them to be
stewards of the future.*

—L. Krishtalka and P.S. Humphrey, Director and former Director
of the Natural History Museum, University of Kansas

Message from the Board of Trustees

I AM HONORED AND PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO serve as President of the Board of Trustees and to succeed Kevin Sharer, who now continues as Chairman. Much was accomplished on Kevin's watch: the successful launching of the Petersen Automotive Museum as an independent institution; the increase in endowment spending for Research and Collections; and, especially, the initiation of the new museum project. Kevin has left some big shoes for me to fill, and I pledge to do my best.

Planning the new museum has proceeded carefully and deliberately. Our view has been that a once-in-a-century project need not and ought not be rushed. Each decision along the way must be the best possible. In that regard, I was pleased that the Board of Trustees reached a unanimous consensus that the new museum should be built in Exposition Park, our historic home. Now we are poised to begin the next phases of this complex project: fund-raising from public and private sources (not least from the

Board of Trustees itself); planning of the exhibition and programs to be mounted in the new museum; architect selection; and so forth. It will all be exciting but also will demand the best from each supporter of the Natural History Museum.

Meanwhile, both the George C. Page Museum La Brea Discoveries and the Natural History Museum are having a fine year under the direction of Dr. Jim Powell and his staff. The line-up of exhibits is the best in several years, as attendance demonstrates. Make sure you visit to see for yourself. The museum would not be where it is today without the backing of its many supporters: County Supervisors, Trustees, Governors, Fellows, Alliance Board, and our thousands of loyal members. It is truly your museum and we will do our best to make you proud.

RICHARD K. ROEDER
President, Board of Trustees
Natural History Museum of
Los Angeles County

*The museum of the past must be set aside, reconstructed,
transformed from a cemetery of bric-a-brac into a nursery
of living thought.*

—George Brown Goode, first director of the Smithsonian Institution, 1888



Richard K. Roeder, newly elected president of the museum's Board of Trustees, stands at the east façade of the Natural History Museum, the original entrance to the museum, which was constructed in 1913 and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. The museum is now entering a new era, that of rebuilding on site, preserving the best that exists from history and using state-of-the-art technology to carry the museum, its treasures, and its patrons well into the future.

Letter from the President and Director

NOT ONLY DID THE DREADED SET OF predicted Y2K disasters fail to materialize, the fiscal year 2000 turned out to be the best for the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County in some time. Combined attendance at the Exposition Park and the Page Museum at the La Brea Tar Pits, as measured by ticket sales and group admissions, was higher than any year of the 1990s. In addition, thousands more people participated in the varied outreach and other programs of the museums. Major exhibits were outstanding. New curators were hired. The Petersen Automotive Museum was launched successfully as an independent museum. And planning for the new museum proceeded apace.

A key new appointment to the staff of the museum was Ms. Dyan Sublett, Senior Vice President for Advancement, who previously held the same position at the Art Center College of Design. She now heads up a combined program of fund-raising, marketing, and communication. Dyan is building a strong staff, some who have worked for her prior to coming to the museum. There is a new "can-do spirit" and a higher level of professionalism in Advancement than in my years at the museum. I hope that our loyal and vital members can begin to see and feel these changes.

I would like to expand a bit on the personnel changes that have taken place in Research and Collections under the leadership of Dr. John Heyning. Collections are at the core of the museum. We must curate and interpret our collections to the best of our ability. By the time current searches are completed, in a two-year period, we will have added six new curators and seventeen

support staff. The new curators study archaeology, ethnology, vertebrate paleontology, and western history. Expect to see great things from these newly hired experts as they conserve and interpret our precious collections.

A great deal of work has been done on planning for the new museum under the superb direction of Dr. Ann Muscat. Most of it focused on selecting the optimum site, but in order to do that well, many budget and program plans and analyses had to be made. Suffice it to say that all of us on the staff have learned a great deal under Ann's tutelage. The outcome, I am pleased to report, is a strong consensus on the part of the Board of Trustees that the new museum ought to be built in Exposition Park, our historic home. Many supporters of the museum began the process of site selection with another site in mind, but I know of no one who, in the end, did not agree that, for many reasons, Exposition Park offers the greatest opportunity.

Planning for the new museum has reinforced our belief that the Natural History Museum has a unique role and mission. Our program encompasses some of the most urgent and vital issues of the new century: preservation of the environment; understanding cultural heritage; and the education of youth and adults about these and other issues. We have identified four techniques that will be used to implement our programs. Our code words for the four are *audience-centered*, *inside-out*, *integration*, and *change*. We will begin to introduce these concepts wherever possible, though they will not flower fully until we open the new museum.

◆ *Audience-centered*. We will try harder to make our exhibits and programs immediately accessible and inviting to all visitors, regardless of age, background, or learning style. We will make increased use of current learning theory and innovative exhibition techniques. We will take advantage of the climate and geography of Los Angeles to integrate outdoor and indoor learning opportunities.

◆ *Inside-out*. Instead of being hidden deep within the museum, visible only during Open House, more of our collections and research activities will be brought to the outside of the museum. We will take visitors into the field as scientists in urban wildlife surveys. We will link them electronically to researchers worldwide.

◆ *Integration*. The natural and cultural worlds are inextricably connected; understanding them requires an interdisciplinary approach. Working together, museum scholars, educators, and support staff will integrate cultural history with the natural sciences in research and public education programs.

◆ *Change*. The hallmark of human experience and the fundamental tenet of Earth history is change. As a research institution, we study and document change of all sorts. The museum will renew itself continually by embedding change into its architecture, programs, facilities, organization, and institutional culture.

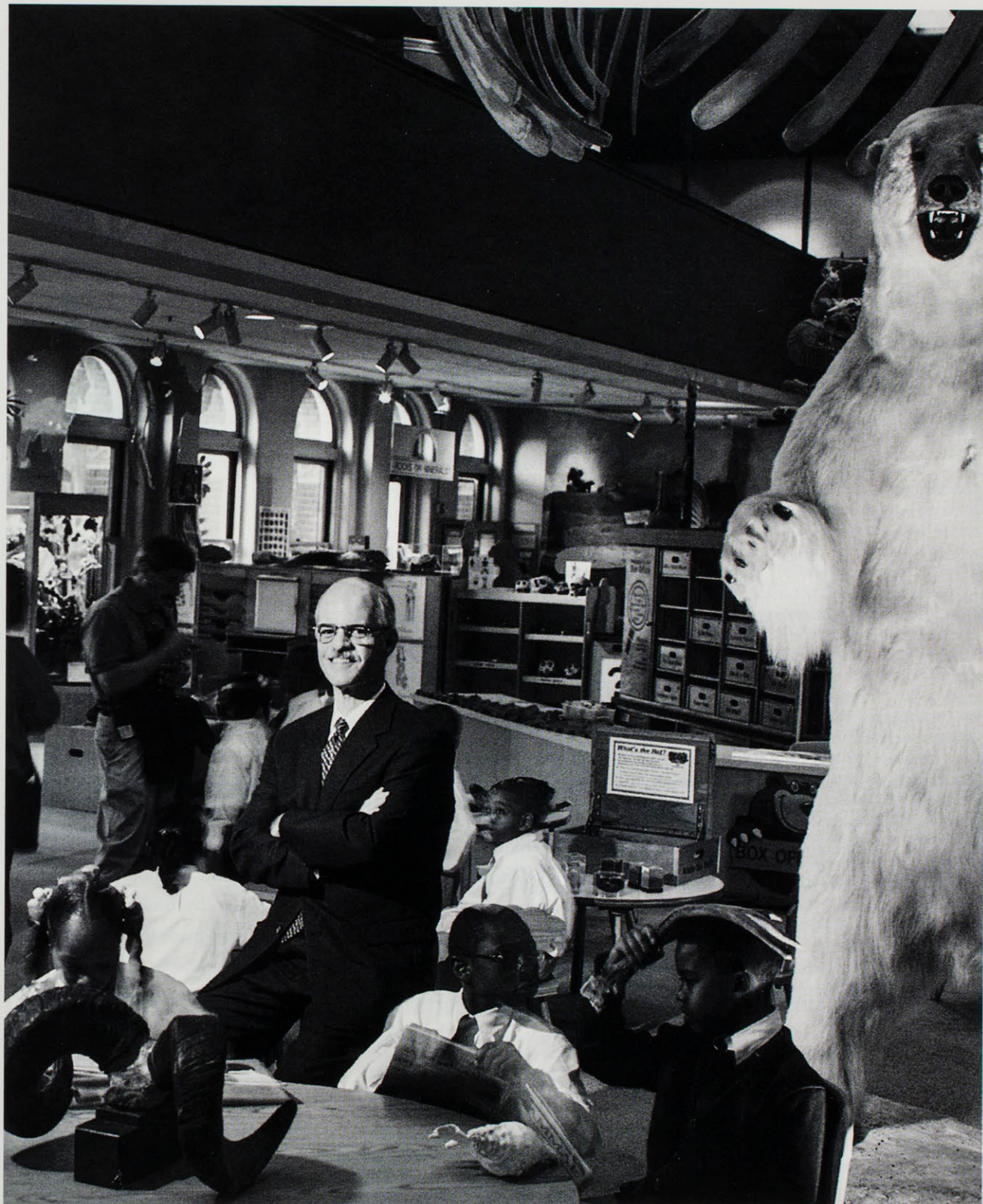
Thank you for your support. Join with us as we revitalize this wonderful institution.

DR. JAMES L. POWELL
President and Director
Natural History Museum of
Los Angeles County

Dr. James L. Powell, museum president and director, joins students from the West Adams Academy at the Discovery Center, which is open to all visitors of all ages. But these particular students have a special relationship with the museum—it has become their school. For the third year, the West Adams Academy's twenty-two students, from first grade through eighth,

attend class in an area of the museum set aside for a classroom. When the academy lost its lease locally, founder and headmaster Regina Moore approached the museum for her dream-come-true—to conduct a private school in the most stimulating of environments. The academy is a not-for-profit organization, funded entirely by tuition and private donations.

Overview of the Museum



George C. Page



June 25, 1901 to November 28, 2000

IN 1917 GEORGE C. PAGE HITCHHIKED TO CALIFORNIA, ARRIVING WITH \$2.30 IN his pocket. No one could have predicted that his arrival would change the face of Los Angeles.

His recent death at age ninety-nine closes an era of rare personal success, philanthropy and foresight. Among his many contributions are the construction and dedication of buildings at Children's Hospital, Loyola Marymount University and Pepperdine University. But his crowning philanthropy was the establishment of the George C. Page Museum La Brea Discoveries, the beloved "Tar Pits Museum," visited by millions of Angelenos and people around the world. Without his personal dedication and generosity, our view of life in our own city, both in ancient times and modern, would be far diminished. George C. Page made it possible to recreate life long passed for us to better understand the present. His story embodies the best of the American dream and his like will not soon come our way again.

As a museum community, we are deeply indebted to him and his memory.

Look to the spring 2001 issue of *TERRA* for our special dedication to George C. Page and the Page Museum at the La Brea Tar Pits.

Overview of the Museums

The Natural History Museum exists to advance knowledge and to enable people of all ages, backgrounds, and interests to understand and appreciate their natural and cultural heritage. The museum assembles, conserves, interprets, and holds in trust collections of irreplaceable objects from nature and human history. These collections reveal the history of the Earth and the evolution and diversity of life and culture. They sustain programs of research, exhibits, education, and publications.

Mission statement, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

THREE MUSEUMS

Thirty-three million specimens and artifacts spanning 3.5 billion years of Earth's history form the basis for the Natural History Museum's programs of research and interpretation. Since it opened to the public in 1913, the museum has grown to encompass three major cultural institutions, each with permanent exhibitions, as well as a number of important scholarly and educational operations.

The **Natural History Museum, Exposition Park**, is the largest natural science and cultural history museum in the western United States. Its 150,000 square feet of public galleries—which include halls devoted to gems and minerals, living and extinct mammals, dinosaurs, birds, marine life, Native American and pre-Columbian cultures, and U.S. and Southwest history—attract close to 375,000 visitors annually. In addition to permanent displays, the museum hosts several special exhibitions throughout the year. The museum's architecturally distinguished building also houses the administration for the entire Natural History Museum family as well as most of the institution's collections and research laboratories.

The **George C. Page Museum La Brea Discoveries** in Hancock Park is located at the site of one of the world's richest deposits of Ice Age fossils. Its galleries, laboratories, and storerooms house the Rancho La Brea heritage—more than three million fossil plants and animals that have been excavated from the La Brea Tar Pits since the early 1900s. This vast collection, which is the basis for the museum's rich displays of extinct creatures and prehistoric landscapes, gives an incredibly detailed picture of life in North America from 4,000 to 40,000 years ago. The Page Museum hosts over 275,000 visitors each year with an estimated 500,000 visitors to Hancock Park and the Tar Pits as part of the museum's research, exhibit, and education programs.

The Spanish colonial-style mansion that houses the **William S. Hart Museum**, in Hart Park in the City of Newhall, was once the home of the silent screen star, director, and scriptwriter famed for his portrayals of western heroes. Mr. Hart's personal effects and movie paraphernalia are displayed in the museum's historically appointed rooms

along with treasures from his collection of Native American and Western American art. Each year, more than 15,000 people visit the Hart Museum.

The Research and Collections Programs

The Natural History Museum's programs of research and collections center on objects and specimens relating to eighteen disciplines. The various collections range in size from the relatively small but unique holdings at the Hart Museum to those in invertebrate zoology and paleontology, for example, which are of world-class significance in their size and scope. The collections are maintained by a staff of sixty-one specialists, including twenty-four curators—each with responsibilities for research, collection growth, and interpretation.

The **History Department** is based on two collections dealing with United States history. The material culture collection of more than 500,000 objects, one of the largest of its kind, is unique in its diversity of artifacts from the American past as well as its focus on California and Southwest history; the collection documents and supports exhibitions in several major halls in the Exposition Park building. The Seaver Center for Western History Research, a repository for manuscripts, books, maps, photographs, and other exhibit and research materials, includes more than one million records relating to California and the American West; it is an important resource for scholars as well as filmmakers and others involved in documentary and educational projects.

The scholars of the history program specialize in California history, particularly urban history and the impact of the state on the rest of the nation.

The **William S. Hart Collection** includes the furnishings of his home, an important collection of weapons, Western American and Native American art, and documents and photographs relating to his stage, film, and ranching careers. Hart's papers form an important reference collection in the Exposition Park museum's Seaver Center; his personal effects and many of his art treasures remain in place in his home and its outbuildings in Hart Park, where they can be enjoyed by the public.

At a time when plans are being made to remake and revitalize the Natural History Museum at Exposition Park, we look back, through this timeline, into its history as a way of anticipating its new vision and exciting future.

1910

Cornerstone for museum laid in Exposition Park, renamed from Agricultural Park.

November 6, 1913

The Museum opens. 10,000 people visit in two hours. L.A. County begins excavation at Rancho La Brea.

Two collections are at the core of the **Anthropology Department**. The archaeology collection consists of about 150,000 objects from sites of human occupation around the Western Hemisphere and represents cultures tracing back as far as the Paleo-Indian Period, 12,000 years ago; its materials from Mexico and Central and South America form the core of a major hall on pre-Columbian cultures in the Exposition Park museum. The ethnology collection of about 34,000 artifacts produced by the native peoples of the New World, Oceania, Africa, and Asia is a particularly important resource on Native American cultures; both ancient and contemporary examples of the work of North American peoples are displayed in the Exposition Park museum's Times Mirror Hall of Native American Cultures. Staff experts associated with the program include an ethnographer specializing in contemporary and traditional Zuni arts and an archaeologist studying the origins of human civilizations in Peru.

environmental assessments. The curator studies polychaete evolution, and the collections manager is an authority on West Coast polychaetes.

◆ An estimated five million crustacean specimens, a collection that is fourth largest in the world and second in the nation in size, after the holdings of the Smithsonian Institution. Included is a particularly wide array of shrimps, lobsters, crabs, and related aquatic arthropods from the eastern Pacific Ocean. The curator specializes in marine crabs and shrimps, crustaceans associated with coral reefs, freshwater branchiopods, and crustaceans from deep-sea hydrothermal vents. The crustacean laboratory is extremely active, with nearly constant grant funding, three Ph.D. students, one post-doctoral scholar, and one collections manager in addition to the curator. A recent project targets the marine biodiversity of a Caribbean island.

◆ A malacology collection that includes four million specimens and is the largest of

western United States and the American tropics and includes one of the nation's best collections of ants, bees, and wasps, as well as a major assemblage of butterflies and moths. The curator's research focuses on the phorids—tiny “ant-decapitating” flies.

◆ More than 3.5 million specimens of fossil invertebrates documenting more than 600 million years of earth history. The sixth largest collection of its kind on the North American continent, it includes representatives of every major invertebrate group known from the fossil record as well as specimens from all continents and geological time periods.

At the heart of the **Vertebrate Zoology Department** are rich and diverse collections representing living and extinct animals of the world, including:

◆ A vertebrate paleontology collection that focuses on Cenozoic specimens from western North America but also contains a small yet significant selection of dinosaurs. The total holdings of fossil vertebrates is the largest in the Western Hemisphere. With more than 500,000 specimens, the collection at Exposition Park is one of the largest in the world and includes some of the oldest recognized vertebrates as well as the remains of animals that became extinct less than 12,000 years ago. Among the staff are experts in fossil mammals of East Africa; fossil vertebrates of Amazonia; fossil marine reptiles and fishes of North America; small fossil reptiles and mammals of California; dinosaurs and the origin and early evolution of birds; and fossil marine mammals of the Pacific Rim.

◆ The Rancho La Brea collection includes a further 3.5 million fossils—plants, invertebrates, and vertebrates retrieved from the asphalt deposits in and around Hancock Park over the last century; these materials make up the world's largest collection of terrestrial fossils from the Late Pleistocene and facilitate the research and educational programs of the George C. Page Museum La Brea Discoveries.

◆ A collection of five million fishes, one of the largest and most comprehensive in the United States. Included are major holdings of marine fishes from the Pacific and Antarctic—in particular, midwater and coastal habitats—and freshwater collections from the New World Tropics and California. Scientists

Museum collections form the only reservoir, save nature itself, of the raw materials of our planet. They are the true facts, and the only ones we have.

—Dr. James L. Powell, President and Director, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

The **Mineral Sciences Department** is centered on a collection of approximately 80,000 minerals, rocks, meteorites, and gems that, although worldwide in scope, is particularly strong in materials from California and in native gold, gem crystals, and colored gems. The collection ranks as the most important of its kind in the western United States. Significant specimens are on display in the Exposition Park museum's Hall of Gems and Minerals. The curator's research focuses on new or inadequately characterized minerals and their atomic structures.

The museum's **Invertebrate Zoology Department** encompasses six extensive collections, including:

◆ Four million specimens of polychaete worms, the third largest collection in the world. Because marine worms are important indicators of the health of their marine habitats, the museum's polychaetes are in wide use and are critical to national and international

its kind in the western United States. The collection is particularly rich in mollusks from the eastern Pacific and includes an important component of species that are the size of coarse grains of sand. The curator is engaged in writing a detailed guide to the marine snails of the northeastern Pacific Ocean. This work will treat about 1400 species, including 300 that are newly described species.

◆ An echinoderm collection that is worldwide in scope and unparalleled in its wealth of specimens from the eastern and western Pacific; the fauna of the Caribbean is also particularly well represented among the total of 600,000 specimens of sea stars, sea urchins, sea cucumbers, and related marine organisms. The curator is an expert on brittle stars and allied animals.

◆ An entomology collection with 5.4 million specimens of insects, spiders, and related arthropods from throughout the world. It is particularly rich in materials from the south-



Dr. Ken Campbell, Curator of Ornithology, Kimball Garrett, Ornithology Collections Manager, and Kathy Molina, former Curatorial Assistant and now a volunteer, are charged with caring for one of the most extensive and diverse ornithological collections in the world. Comprising 111,000 specimens, the bird collection is the second largest in western North America. It contains material from 80 percent of the world's genera and nearly 60 percent of the world's species.

The collection's taxonomic and geographic breadth, along with the diverse array of specimen preparations, that is, study skins and skeletons to spirit specimens

and tissue samples, establishes a strong foundation for numerous avenues of research. The specimens are the data banks from which we may draw new information as new tools and techniques are developed. Many modern lines of research could not have been anticipated when the older specimens in this collection, some of which date back to the 1860s, were collected. For example, DNA samples from tissue carefully removed from Hawaiian bird specimens collected in the early 1900s have helped elucidate the population genetics in some bird lineages that are now endangered or extinct.

1917

L.A. County given control of Hancock Park.

1923

Rancho La Brea comes under museum management in bequest from G. Allan Hancock.

1925

First museum addition completed.

working with this material include specialists in larval fishes, sculpins, dwarf sharks, California marine and freshwater fishes, midwater fishes, and cutlassfishes. The curator studies the ontogeny and evolution of gobies, a large group of tropical and temperate inshore fishes distinguished by their diversity and often tiny size.

◆ A collection of approximately 180,000 amphibians and reptiles, which is one of the top ten in the United States in size and significance. Geographic coverage is global but particularly strong for the southwestern United States, Mexico, and Costa Rica. Additional significant holdings include collections from Africa, Australia, and several other countries in Latin America. In addition to specimens preserved in alcohol, there are significant ancillary holdings of skeletons, chromosome preparations, x-rays, and frozen tissue samples for DNA analyses. Research in the section includes studies on the systematics of Southeast Asian frogs, the evolution of courtship and defense behavior in Mexican anoles, and eco-morphological evolution of arboreal, aquatic, burrowing, and limbless lizards.

◆ A bird collection, which, with its 111,000 specimens, is the second largest in western North America; material from 80 percent of the world's genera, and 60 percent of the world's species, is included. It is particularly rich in birds from South America and Africa, and its holdings from parts of Uganda and Kenya represent areas that are now completely deforested. The collection, which is maintained by a curator with expertise in fossil birds, and a collections manager who is an expert in the field identification of birds of North America, supports one of the Exposition Park museum's permanent exhibitions, the Ralph W. Schreiber Hall of Birds.

◆ The mammal collection consists of approximately 97,000 specimens, including representatives of 88 percent of 26 living orders and 87 percent of 135 living families, and includes the world's second largest assemblage of marine species, as well as extensive holdings of bats and a large series of African and Central American mammals. One curator is an expert in the evolution and natural history of Neotropical primates, and is currently conducting a project on the evolutionary radiation of placental mammals; the other curator specializes in marine mammals.

The museum's **Botany** holdings consist of a fine collection of cryptogams, the flowerless and seedless plants, such as algae and ferns, which reproduce through spores. Among the total of 195,000 specimens are 75,000 fungi, including important collections from the Neotropics, Southeast Asia, and California and the western United States; a strong section of mosses, liverworts, and other bryophytes from the southwestern U.S.; and 60,000 marine algal specimens representing the diversity of these organisms in the Eastern Pacific Basin. The curator is a specialist in the evolution of fungi.

The **Research Library** administers a collection of printed materials and ephemera, including almost 120,000 books and a greater number of periodical volumes on natural history, history, and anthropology, the largest collection of its kind in California. The collection is particularly rich in material on Los Angeles and southwestern history, including early judicial and electoral records. The librarians are specialists not only in library organization and management but also in computer literature searches and rare book bibliography.

Programs of Public Outreach

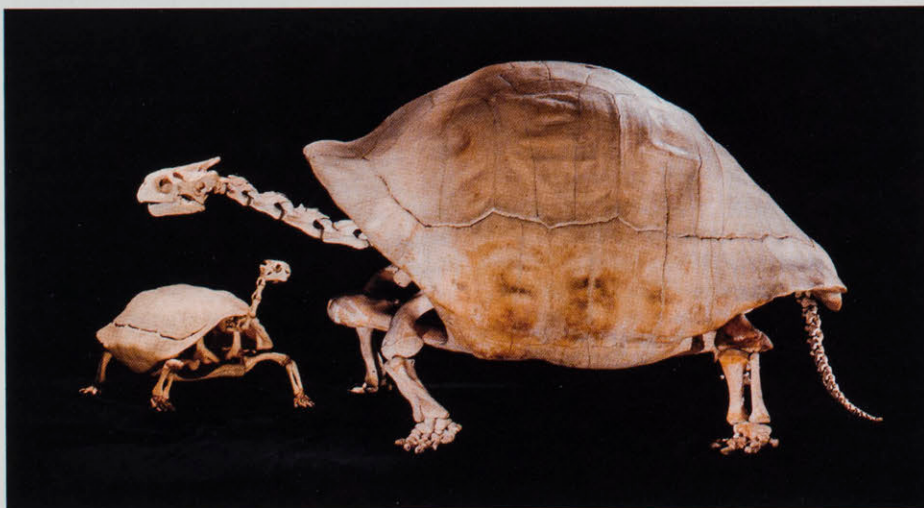
The Education and Exhibition Divisions work at all three Natural History Museum facilities to build bridges between the research collections and the owners of these collections—the public. The museum's professional educators and designers serve as

interpreters, planning and executing exhibits that use the collections and the expertise of staff scholars to provide enjoyable learning experiences for visitors. Our public programs are the vehicle for curatorial contact with members, visitors, and students.

The education staff also develops and implements supplemental and enriching events and courses—such as school tours, workshops and classes, lectures and symposia, outreach programs, teacher training courses, and publications—that provide in-depth information about nature and culture. These offerings reached more than 790,000 individuals during the year: nearly 200,000 school children visited the three museums with their classes, while another 300,000 people were served by the outreach and artifact loan services, and more than 210,000 people visited the Discovery Center and Insect Zoo.

GALAPAGOS TORTOISE

This Galapagos tortoise (*Geochelone nigra*) was one of the museum's first reptile specimens. Donated by Edmund Heller immediately after the animal's death in 1914, the specimen was mounted and installed in the museum's science wing. The tortoise had lived on a ranch in Riverside where, according to its caretaker, "it thrived wonderfully on a diet of spineless cactus, milkweed, melons, oranges." The report of its remarkable growth, from 29 pounds to 450 pounds in fifteen years, by museum Director Frank Daggett in *Science*, was the first scientific paper published by a museum staff member. The smaller desert tortoise, *Gopherus agassizii* is shown for scale.



Highlights of the Year

July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000

RESEARCH AND COLLECTIONS

New Directions

In 1999, the museum's Board of Trustees allocated a significant increase to the budget for Research and Collections. Most of this new money went to additional staff positions: four curators, fifteen collections support positions, and one librarian. The addition of collections managers, curatorial assistants, and preparators ensures that collections are properly cared for and that curators can spend more of their time on research. By the end of the fiscal year, Research and Collections staff grew to over sixty professionals, including twenty-four curators. Additional staff is funded through ongoing grants and contracts.

Molecular Systematics Laboratory Continues to Build

This year the museum continued to build its Molecular Systematics Laboratory with ongoing support from the W. M. Keck Foundation of Los Angeles, as well as a matching grant from The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation. These grants support facility upgrades as well as positions for undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral scholars using DNA sequence data in their evolutionary studies. The lab is led by Dr. Christine Thacker, Assistant Curator of Ichthyology, and Dr. David Kizirian, Assistant Curator of Herpetology. Both curators perform broad-scale molecular biodiversity research in the lab as well as supervise other scientists and oversee the facility.

Vertebrate Paleontology

In March 2000, with funds from the National Geographic Society, Infoquest Foundation, Phillip M. McKenna Foundation, and Fundacion Antorchas, Dr. Luis Chiappe, Associate Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology, led four weeks of fieldwork at the dinosaur nesting site of Auca Mahuevo in Patagonia, Argentina. This work resulted in exciting new discoveries about the nesting behavior of large dinosaurs. Much of his research will be featured in an upcoming traveling exhibit organized by the Natural History Museum entitled *The Tiniest Giants*. Dr. Chiappe also organized a one-day international symposium in Beijing, China, on feathered vertebrate animals (birds and other dinosaurs) from northeastern China. Ancient fossil sites in this region are providing enlightening evidence in support

of the dinosaurian origin of birds.

Dr. Kenneth Campbell, Curator of Ornithology, was elected the first President of the Society of Avian Paleontology and Evolution at the Society's Fifth International Meeting in Beijing, China, in June. First organized as an informal group in the mid-1980s, this international group of scholars is devoted to the study of the origin and evolution of birds.

In a joint project with the National Museums of Kenya and the Kenya Wildlife Service, Dr. John Harris, Chief Curator of Paleontology, and colleagues from the University of Utah collected samples of mammalian tooth enamel from the collections of the National Museum and from a number of game parks in Kenya for isotopic analysis. The results will help document environmental change in East Africa during the past 8 million years. This work is supported by a generous grant from the Packard Foundation.

Biodiversity Studies

Dr. Joel Martin, Curator of Crustacea, organized the first conference of leading national biodiversity researchers, which was funded by a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant of \$96,000 to the Natural History Museum. This conference resulted in recommendations to NSF concerning the future of biodiversity research.

A team of museum marine biologists is actively preparing for a third field season of biodiversity work on a small private island in the Caribbean (Guana Island in the British Virgin Islands). Led by curator Dr. Joel Martin and Research Assistant Todd Zimmerman, the team includes the following museum staff: Leslie Harris, Dr. Gordon Hendler, Dr. Kirk Fitzhugh, and Todd Haney (Graduate Student-in-Residence).

Preliminary results show that almost one-third of the species collected in this museum project are new to science. Todd Haney is currently describing a new genus of *Leptostraca* (sea-fleas) discovered in the summer of 2000 on Guana Island. Sandy Trautwein, Graduate Student-in-Residence, continues to extract DNA from coral reef "queen" crabs of the Caribbean and Pacific, with help from Dr. Regina Wetzer, Postdoctoral Research Assistant, who is also working to elucidate the relationships of ancient Australian isopods using molecular sequence data.

Fieldwork continues for Dr. Brian Brown, Associate Curator of Entomology. He returned to Colombia twice for work on his NSF-funded Biotic Surveys project on the poorly known insects of this country. After helping to instruct the parataxonomists in this project, he spent a week at Parque Nacional Utría collecting specimens. He also traveled to Costa Rica to continue work on the Diptera of Costa Rica project, which will result in a multi-authored book which Dr. Brown will edit. While there, he attended the Diptera Taxonomic Working Group meeting of the Costa Rican National Inventory Program and helped teach an insect parataxonomist course in northern Costa Rica.

Dr. Daniel Geiger, Postdoctoral Fellow, and Dr. Christine Thacker, Assistant Curator, Ichthyology, spent three weeks in French Polynesia, where they made extensive collections on seven different islands and atolls to study the biogeography and evolutionary relationships of gobies and molluscs.

Kimball Garrett, Collections Manager in Ornithology, and Kathy Molina, Project Coordinator, headed a team of Natural History Museum biologists to survey the historical and current biodiversity of the Baldwin Hills, the largest undeveloped open space within the Los Angeles Basin. The study will provide a framework to evaluate potential parkland acquisitions, assess opportunities and priorities for natural habitat restoration, and identify additional ecological assessment work needed.

Cultural Studies

Dr. Karen Wise, Associate Curator of Anthropology, traveled to Peru to oversee her research program and the installation of an exhibit she produced and curated with colleague Augusto Cardona on archaeology of the area entitled, "Arequipa: Doce mil años de arte y cultura" (Arequipa: Twelve thousand years of art and culture). Assisted by colleagues and students from Peru and the United States, the exhibit was organized through the Center for Archaeological Investigations in Arequipa and supported by the Phelps Dodge Corporation, the Sociedad Minera Cerro Verde S.A.A. and the Municipality of Arequipa. The exhibit attracted nearly 30,000 visitors in its three-week run.

Mineral Sciences

This year the museum's mineral sciences collections increased in size by more than 30 per

cent, largely through the donation of the mineral collection of Mrs. Jessie Hardman. Other significant donations were received from Mr. and Mrs. Hyman Savinar, Mr. Melvin Hindin, Mrs. William J. Robertson, Mr. Michael Oschin, Newmont Mining Corporation, and Dr. Leonard Lobsenz.

Publications by Museum Scholars

Complete listings of staff and museum publications during the report year appear in the annual report section of the museum's Web page, www.nhm.org/annual_report.

EDUCATION

Dogs: Our Canine Companions is the working title of a new traveling exhibit for which the museum has been awarded a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant of \$1,298,772. The exhibit will explore the natural history of dogs and examine the intricacy of the human-canid relationship throughout history. The exhibit is on schedule to premiere at the museum in the fall 2002, after which it will travel to museums throughout the United States.

Earth Odyssey, an ecology program sponsored by American Honda Motor Company, was launched by the Education Division in the fall of 2000. This multi-visit program is designed for 4th and 5th graders in underserved urban communities. With the help of museum instructors, students observe birds and collect invertebrates in both their schoolyard and a natural area, and then compare the diversity of animal life in the two habitats. Students submit drawings, graphs, and writing samples to the Education Division to be posted on the museum web page.

American Honda executives are active partners, providing an Odyssey minivan to serve as a mobile lab for the program. Covered in photos of local plants and animals, the van carries field-trip supplies such as insect nets, backpacks, binoculars, and laptop computers. American Honda executives participate in the field trip to help students collect their data.

A National Leadership grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for over \$948,000 has been awarded to the museum to support science education programs for Spanish-speaking students in the greater Los Angeles area. The funds will help support the Education Division's after-school and ESL programs, the Spanish-



SHELL BEADS

These shell beads were made by early California Native Americans on two of the Channel Islands, San Nicolas and San Miguel, to be used as currency and ornamentation in the era before contact with European settlers. As currency, shell beads were more valuable if they were highly processed by drilling, heat-bleaching, polishing, sanding, etc. *Olivella biplicata*, often called the olive shell, was used most often by Channel Islanders as the raw material for currency beads. Trade networks which honored these shell currencies extended as far as the great basin of California and what is now the southwestern United States.

1960

West wing with new auditorium opens.

1961

Museum splits into Natural History Museum and L.A. County Museum of Art.

1965

Natural History Museum established as a non-profit charitable organization.

language lecture series, and the development of a new traveling exhibit, *The Tiniest Giants: Discovering Dinosaur Eggs*, based on curator Dr. Luis Chiappe's work in Patagonia.

The After-School Program was launched in fall 1999 with a mission to fit the needs of students in the community for educational and safe after-school activities, while expanding their academic horizons in science and history. The program has since evolved into a self-perpetuating leadership and mentoring program offering training and career opportunities for high-school students. Participants develop and lead exhibit tours, craft activities, and special events for younger students in the local community.

Over 1700 local elementary and middle-school students have participated in the programs. Twenty-seven high-school students joined paleontology training workshops and field trips, and eleven have been hired by the museum to work in the Vertebrate Paleontology and Education Departments.

THE HONORABLE JULIAN DIXON

The passing of Congressman Julian Dixon this year marked the loss of one of the museum's finest friends. Congressman Dixon, a long-time supporter of the museum's endeavors, successfully earmarked over \$948,000 from The Institute of Museum and Library Science to support Science Education for Spanish-speaking Stu-

dents. This new program, to be administered by the museum, consists of a series of exhibits, lectures, workshops, and other educational programming designed to provide access to science education in a manner that is appealing to both Spanish- and English-speaking audiences.

The museum is located in one of the most diverse communities in the United States, which includes a significant Latino population. The museum has recognized and responded to the need for exhibits, particularly science-oriented exhibits, which specifically engage this audience. We remain grateful for Congressman Dixon's commitment to the museum and to bringing about positive social change. He will continue to serve as a source of inspiration.

IN THE NEWS....

It was an extraordinary year for generating publicity coverage about the museums—both nationally and internationally. The Media Relations Department generated hundreds of articles and hours of airtime on television and radio programs as well as monthly features in the *Los Angeles Times*.

The year began with one of the most successful openings in recent history of the annual excavation of "Pit 91" at the George C. Page Museum La Brea Discoveries. Highlights of news coverage included a live remote with the international program, "Good Morning America," with science reporter Michael Guillen and an estimated viewership exceeding 34 million. Multiple features ran on CNN's "Headline News," *Newsweek*, the *Los Angeles Times* and a cover feature in the *Daily News*. This famous fossil excavation was covered on radio news programs and on numerous television channels and featured on KABC-TV's program, "Eye on LA."

The research work of the museum's renowned curatorial staff was highlighted in publications and on popular programs throughout the year. Dr. Luis Chiappe's dinosaur research was featured in several articles in both the national and international editions of *Newsweek*, *U.S. News and World Report* and multiple features on *National Geographic* programs. The media looked towards our marine experts to talk about topics such as whale strandings, and Dr. John Heyning was featured on many local and national programs. The auction of fossils was a hot topic in the news, and Dr. James Powell dis-

cussed this topic with Warren Olney on KCRW's radio program, "Which Way LA." The popular PBS local program, KCET-TV's "Life & Times" featured the museum six times throughout the year, including interviews with experts Dr. Janet Fireman, Beth Werling, Dr. David Whistler, and Dr. Luis Chiappe.

The museum's amazing Hollywood collection garnered much media attention when it appeared as a front-page Calendar feature in the *Los Angeles Times*. BBC Radio & World Services and Canadian Broadcasting Radio also featured stories on the collection. Kimball Garrett discussed the diversity of bird life in the Southern California region in multiple features on KPCC radio's "Talk of the City," and in the *Los Angeles Times*. And when dinosaurs were in the news, as for the movie release of Disney's "Dinosaur," NBC's "Nightly News with Tom Brokaw," CNN, the BBC, and newspapers and magazines turned to the museum's paleontology experts for their views.

A "gold mine" of coverage was received on the museum's gem and mineral collections. KCET-TV's popular program, "California Gold," featured the gold collection and Huell Howser interviewed Dr. Anthony Kampf. The exhibition of the extremely rare Martian meteorite dominated local news and ran on ABC affiliates across the U.S. and on The Learning Channel. The Natural History Museum also received extensive coverage in *Discover* magazine, with an eight-page photo feature on hidden museum treasures.

Special exhibitions and events kept the media coming back. For the second time, the George C. Page Museum La Brea Discoveries opened a special exhibit, "Mammoths: Wild & Woolly," which inspired new articles about the museum. The opening of "El Nuevo Mundo" extended the Natural History Museum's outreach to Latino audiences and media. Many features about the exhibition appeared in *La Opinión* and on Spanish television stations such as KMEX-TV and KVEA-TV. The year ended with the media success of the "Pavilion of Wings" butterfly pavilion, the Insect Fair and the opening of the "Savage Ancient Seas" exhibits. More than two hours of television and radio coverage on these events were generated, and publicity reached millions of newspaper and magazine readers both locally and in cities across the region.



1975

Museum's original building added to National Register of Historic Places.

1976

New North Wing completed.



A

AT THE GEORGE C. PAGE MUSEUM LA BREA DISCOVERIES

Mammoths: Wild and Woolly

March 18 through September 17, 2000

As the Page Museum's second special exhibition, this was one of the most complete and in-depth exhibits about mammoths, telling the story of their origin, evolution and migration to North America about two million years ago, and ending with the mammoth's extinction about 11,500 years ago.

Interest was especially high due to the recent discovery in Siberia of a frozen woolly mammoth. Almost two dozen fossils and artifacts from the Page and Natural History Museum collections were on display, some for the first time, including fragments of actual skin with hair. Visitors also had an opportunity to observe the museum's Paleontology Lab staff and volunteers cleaning and identifying mammoth bones from the Rancho La Brea deposits.

Mammothfest 2000 kicked off the exhibition in three days of events and programs, beginning with a Mammoth Mixer.

Albert's Tar Pit Adventures: A New Living History Program

In addition to science, history came alive in Hancock Park and the museum as a result of a new program in which the gallery interpreter assumed the persona of an early twentieth-century bone digger, "Albert Cooper," working the rich Rancho La Brea fossil deposit. Adapted to both school and weekend public programs, this is the first program of its kind to premier in the Natural History Museum family of institutions.

Custom Programs for Schools

Also launched this year were multi-disciplinary custom programs for schools, with the Manhattan Beach, Palos Verdes Peninsula, and San Gabriel Unified School Districts among the most active and enthusiastic to pursue these opportunities for their Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) students.

DINOSAUR BALL 2000

The Natural History Museum's eighteenth annual, gala fund-raiser was a tremendous success. Conga drums and champagne welcomed guests at the north entrance, where they were surrounded by a lively mix of

music, caviar and martini bars, and hors d'oeuvres. Guests took their seats in the African Mammal Hall, North American Mammal Hall, and Rotunda.

In a special video presentation, museum President and Director Dr. James L. Powell introduced the honorees, Mr. Franklin Otis Booth, Jr., and Dr. S. Jerome and Judith D. Tamkin. In their prerecorded messages, Mr. Booth and Dr. and Mrs. Tamkin spoke of their involvement with the museum and extended their thanks for the honor.

Approximately 650 members of the museum family participated in this year's Dinosaur Ball, raising more than \$400,000. Net proceeds from the event will support the museum's research and public programs.

VOLUNTEERS

At the Natural History Museum there is a championship team of volunteers who work both in front of and behind the scenes, carrying the ball and making things happen. Volunteers are making a difference daily and weekly by introducing school children and teachers to the wonders of the museum's exhibits, or by greeting visitors with a welcoming smile and introducing them to the benefits of membership. Volunteers can be found staffing the members' loan counter, or working alongside the curatorial staff in one of the Research and Collection laboratories.

We are sincerely grateful to those individuals who take time from their work, their leisure, and their home life to volunteer their talents and energies in support of the Natural History Museum, the Page Museum at the La Brea Tar Pits, and the Hart Museum. In the 1999-2000 fiscal year, volunteers contributed a total of 52,807 hours of valuable service.

The list of volunteers is featured in the annual report section of the museum's web page at www.nhm.org/annual_report.

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000

This year was marked with a series of exhibits which demonstrate both the wide range of collections and diversity of interests at The Natural History Museum and the Page Museum at the La Brea Tar Pits.

AT THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM, EXPOSITION PARK

Butterflies in Living Color

Through September 1999

This exhibition featured specimens of the largest, smallest, most abundant, and rarest species of butterflies, highlighting scientific research grounded in insect collections.

Pavilion of Wings: A Live Butterfly Experience Through September 2000

Visitors strolled through an outdoor butterfly pavilion on the south lawn filled with hundreds of free-flying butterflies. More than twenty different species from across the United States were present, including the Giant Swallowtail, Monarch, and American Painted Lady.

Bears: Imagination and Reality

October 1999 to January 2000

From the grizzly bear to the everyday "teddy bear," visitors learned about our culture's fascination with these animals in this first exhibition to focus on bears in North America. Interactive displays examined bears' behavior and biology, and their interaction with humans through art, folklore, literature, and history. The exhibit included leading scientific research on bears and current conservation efforts. *Bears: Imagination and Reality* was produced by The Science Museum of Minnesota.

The Gladys Mankins Bear Dance Posters

October 1999 to January 2000

In 1981, artist Jean LaMarr began a series of posters to commemorate a celebration by Native American people of the Susanville Rancheria in Lassen County, California, who have welcomed spring with a Bear Dance since the early 1960s. After dancing with the bear, people cleanse



B



C

A. SONORA BLUE BUTTERFLY (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae) *Philotas sonorensis* (Felder & Felder): Pasadena, California

B. ORANGE TIP BUTTERFLY (Lepidoptera: Pieridae) *Anthocaris* sp.: Italy

C. GIANT SILK MOTH (Lepidoptera: Saturniidae) *Antheraea paphia mylitta* Drury: India

There is a developmental phenomenon in nature, especially noticeable in species where the sexes are dimorphic, or appear to be very different, or dichromatic, possessing multiple colors. It is a condition known as gynandromorphy and produces individuals with characteristics of both genders, male and female. Such specimens are rare and are most often seen in species that are large and well enough known that their dual characteristics are immediately noticeable.

The museum's entomology collections possess several stunning gynandromorphs. Most of these are butterflies or moths (Order Lepidoptera) where sexual dimorphism is relatively common. In these individuals, not only is the color pattern different on one side of the body, there are also subtle sexual differences in the wing and antennae shape. In the large silk moth (*Antheraea paphia mylitta*), the border between the two sexual halves is the center of the body, and on the head, the feathery antenna of the male is on one side, while the smaller female antenna is opposite. These rare specimens are kept safely locked within the entomology cabinets, another of the museum's many hidden treasures.

themselves with water and prayer, wiping clean the slate of the previous year, including quarrels with enemies. The Natural History Museum acquired six of the seven posters in the bear dance series with funds from a Hearst Foundation endowment, which supports the museum's ongoing commitment to twentieth and twenty-first century Native American art.

Bear Evolution Exhibit

October 1999 to January 2000

Skulls of eight living species of bears and two extinct relatives, including the infamous "cave bear" from the museum collection were shown in conjunction with *Bears: Imagination and Reality*.

El Nuevo Mundo: The Landscape of Latino Los Angeles

January to July 2000

Sociologist and photographer Camilo José Vergara, who has documented America's inner cities for twenty years, assembled 107 of his color photographs to show the changing character of Latino cultures in Los Angeles County. His work explores how Latinos build and decorate their homes, yards, and neighborhoods to resemble the vibrancy of Mexico and Central America, and to create a Latino "nuevo mundo," or new world, within the city. This exhibit was organized by the National Building Museum, Washington, D.C.

Pride and Honor—Orgullo y Honor Continuing

Museum historians selected 30 photos from more than 300,000 images of Southern California and the Southwest, which date back nearly 150 years and which comprise the Seaver Center for Western History Research collection. This selection depicts values that have persisted—pride of home and honor in work—and reflects the hope for a good life in a changing Southern California.

Arte y Estilo: The Lowriding Tradition

January 2000 through January 2001

Popularized by the Los Angeles Latino community, historic customized lowriders and their proud owners are showcased in these photographs. From the classic 1930s and '40s models known as "bombs," to the popular Chevy Impalas of the late

1950s and '60s, this exhibition has documented the evolution of local lowriders.

Masks: The World in Me Through November 1999

This exhibition featured sixty-five emotion-filled masks created by elementary, middle- and high-school students from three Los Angeles Unified Magnet Schools in the community of El Sereno. Artist Judy Leventhal guided students in utilizing clay and paper maché to explore the ceremonial function of masks from cultures around the world and as an expression of the students' relationships to the Earth. The project was part of a unique program supported by the Natural Resources Partnership for Youth Achievement and was developed in 1995 by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, with the goal of improving environmental and scientific literacy.

Morning Becomes Electra and Little Monsters Through September 1999

A series of photographs by Joel Aaron Glassman, *Morning Becomes Electra* displayed orchids in close-up images that are highly manipulated by the artist; *Little Monsters* presented a series of close-ups of arthropods that Glassman posed and photographed from preserved mail-order specimens.

Savage Ancient Seas May to October 2000

This exhibition was a trip back in time, 70 million years ago, when massive, 40-foot long mosasaurs, fierce flesh-eating fish, and 15-foot long sea turtles ruled the oceans at the same time when dinosaurs dominated the land. Visitors saw giant skeletons and models of these amazing aquatic animals suspended in three-dimensional space. These Cretaceous creatures beneath the waves vied with the dinosaurs in ferocity.

Bahia: World's Largest Gemstone Sculpture Continuing

The world's largest cut gemstone sculpture, standing more than four-and-a-half feet tall with hair-like sprays of golden needles, is on view in the Gem and Mineral Hall. Originally weighing 812 pounds, this transparent rutiled quartz crystal was discovered in 1987 in a remote coffee field in the Brazilian State of Bahia. It took twenty-five people ten days to unearth the original crystal. Expert gem carvers Glenn Lehrer and Lawrence Stoller

1985

Maya: Treasures of an Ancient Civilization breaks attendance records.

1986

75th Anniversary Capital Campaign begins for expansion and improvement of permanent exhibits.

Dinosaurs Past and Present becomes museum's first traveling exhibition.

spent more than seven years transforming the crystal into a work of art.

The Gem Artists of North America Collection
May to July 2000

This exhibition featured selected gemstone artwork by members of the Gem Artists of North America (GANA). The lapidary arts have experienced a renaissance in recent years, and GANA members include many of the top award-winning gem cutters in the world.

Meteorites: Great Balls of Fire!

Through August 2000

This special exhibition included the rare Los Angeles Meteorite, the first from Mars known to have landed in the United States. Also included were an array of different types of meteorites, a sampling of "meteor-wrongs" (items that people have mistaken for meteorites), and tips on how to identify the real thing.

African Hands & Liberian Legacy

January 17 through February 22, 2000

In celebration of Black History Month, this photographic exhibition by Elizabeth and Keya Gill Lui focuses on the experiences and views of this mother and daughter who photographed the people and cultures of Mali and the plight of Liberian refugees.

Museum Treasures

Continuing

A special exhibit of specimens and objects from the Natural History Museum's collections, each object has been chosen by curators for its beauty, public interest, and scientific, historical, or artistic significance.

Galápagos Islands: Evolution's Showcase
A Photographic Essay by William McComas

Continuing

Dr. McComas, Director of the Center to Advance Science Education at the University of Southern California, examines the

TRAVELING EXHIBITS

July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000

These are exhibits created by staff at the Natural History Museum and on exhibit at museums throughout the country.

California Reptiles and Amphibians

Lindsey Wildlife Museum, Walnut Creek, CA, to December 2000.

Cats! Mild to Wild

Nassau County Museum, Sands Point Preserve, Port Washington, NY, to November 1999.

Pacific Science Center, Seattle, WA, to May 2000

The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, PA, to September 2000.

Masters of the Ocean Realm: Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises

Museum of Science, Boston, MA, to September 1999

Mesa Southwest Museum, Mesa, AZ, to July 2000

Sharks! Fact and Fantasy

Nauticus, National Maritime Center, Norfolk, VA, to January 2000

San Bernardino County Museum, Redlands, CA, to May 2000

Cumberland Science Museum, Nashville, TN, to September 2000

Treasures of the Tar Pits

Science Museum of Western Virginia, Roanoke, VA, to February 2000

Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, CA, to June 2000.



Late Twentieth Century Zuni Fetishes

Continuing

More than one hundred of the 3,951 Zuni fetishes donated by Dr. and Mrs. Boyd W. Walker are on continuing exhibit. These small sculptures span the last three decades of the twentieth century, when new stones and shells were used to portray nontraditional subjects and exotic animals.

Amber Windows to the Past

Continuing

Several pieces from a large collection of amber donated by Michael Oschin are on continuing display. Amber is ancient tree resin that has hardened and been preserved over millions of years. This significant collection of 375 pieces contains the remains of plants and insects from millions of years ago.

fragile ecosystem of the Galápagos with photographs of plants and animals unique to the island.

The Community's Choice: Selections from the African Collections

October 1997 to January 2001

The Natural History Museum invited Los Angeles community leaders to join the museum staff to create an exhibit from the institution's African holdings.

Nature's Original Impressionists, Photographs by Richard F. Wheeler

January 1999 to April 2000

Photographs by Richard F. Wheeler featured images of the changing effects of tar as water evaporates and temperature changes.

1987

William S. Hart Park becomes museum's second satellite.
Ralph M. Parsons Discovery Center for children opens.

1991

Ralph W. Schrieber Hall of Birds
permanent gallery opens.

1992

Ralph M. Parsons Insect Zoo opens.



The Paleontology Laboratory at the Page Museum at the La Brea Tar Pits is where staff and a group of about thirty-five volunteers share their work of cleaning, cataloguing, preparing, and identifying fossils excavated from the Rancho La Brea Tar Pits. This laboratory is part of the museum's philosophy of providing "inside-out" experiences, so visitors can observe first-

hand activities which are normally performed away from public view.

Corina O'Neill and her two-year-old twins, Brady and Kelly, share a moment of discovery with Rick Bruckman and Kelle Price, while Kenny Tharp, age seven, of Bozeman, Montana, joins in. Curatorial Assistant Shelley Cox and volunteer Michael Charters clean and catalog fossils recently excavated from Pit 91.

1993

Times Mirror Hall of Native American Cultures permanent gallery opens.

1996

Dueling Dinosaurs unveiled in museum foyer.

2000

Plans begin to construct new museum at same site in Exposition Park.

Statement of Operations

The financial statement below includes funding provided by the County of Los Angeles to the Natural History Museum as well as funding from the Foundation of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. Complete audited financial statements for the Natural History Museum Foundation are available upon request from the museum's Executive Office.

Fiscal year 1999-2000 was one in which the museum was able to realize an operating surplus. Admissions revenues increased

by \$172,092 from FY1999. Investment income payout from the endowment fund increased by \$896,330 due to a decision by the Board of Trustees to increase support to the operating fund. Support from the County of Los Angeles in the appropriation line below did not decrease in FY99-2000. The difference between the two fiscal years is due to the fact that in FY98-99 the appropriation included one-time deferred maintenance funds.

During fiscal year 1999-2000 the

Petersen Automotive Museum left the Natural History Museum family (effective 4/1/00) and separately incorporated to form an independent, nonprofit foundation. As a result of this change, the revenue and expenditures for the Petersen Museum only reflect nine months of activity in FY00 as compared to twelve months in FY99.

JANE PIASECKI,
Vice President, Finance

Earned Revenues	1998-1999	1999-2000
Admission fees	\$1,590,129	\$1,762,221
Investment income	\$1,103,670	\$2,000,000
Membership fees	\$742,270	\$694,095
Shops, cafeteria, museum use	\$1,321,766	\$1,443,755
Petersen Automotive Museum	\$2,534,093	\$2,030,106
Education, Exhibits, Research and Collections revenues	\$1,137,889	\$1,456,349
Miscellaneous	\$293,607	\$371,726
Support		
Gifts, grants & contracts	\$3,662,984	\$4,143,303
County of Los Angeles appropriation	\$10,966,842	\$10,887,000
Total Revenue	\$23,353,250	\$24,788,555
Expenditures		
Public Programs	\$3,983,995	\$4,227,776
Petersen Automotive Museum	\$3,108,441	\$2,010,644
Research and Collections	\$3,001,112	\$3,215,833
Grants and Contracts	\$2,363,004	\$3,156,036
Shops, cafeteria, and museum use	\$1,277,371	\$1,258,793
Advancement	\$767,438	\$932,516
Administration and Operations	\$8,565,294	\$9,607,496
Total Expenditures	\$23,066,655	\$24,409,094
Operating Surplus (deficit)	\$286,595	\$379,461

Support to the Museum

July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000

MUSEUM BENEFACTORS

The Natural History Museum is grateful to the following donors who have made generous gifts in support of the museum's programs in education, exhibits, research and collections, as well as the general operating fund.

(‡ Denotes members of the Fellows program. These supporters have made unrestricted gifts of \$1,000 and above.)

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JAGUAR EFFIGY

This ceramic jaguar is the product of the Teotihuacán people, a culture in the valley of Mexico that predated the Aztecs, in the Pre-Classic era, around AD 600. When the Aztecs flourished, the Teotihuacán region had already been abandoned by about 200 years, and the Aztecs mythicized the city, calling it the "Birthplace of the Gods." The jaguar was significant in early Mesoamerican mythology, which influenced succeeding cultures. There are differing theories as to what the

jaguar represented. One is divine kingship, meaning that the royalty were gods. Another view of the jaguar is that it represented the three levels of the universe since it could climb trees, walk on the ground, and swim. It was believed that there was a tree at the center of the universe that connected the three levels and some bodies of water were believed to be entrances to the underworld. This effigy can be appreciated mostly for its stylistic attributes, since its exact function is unknown.

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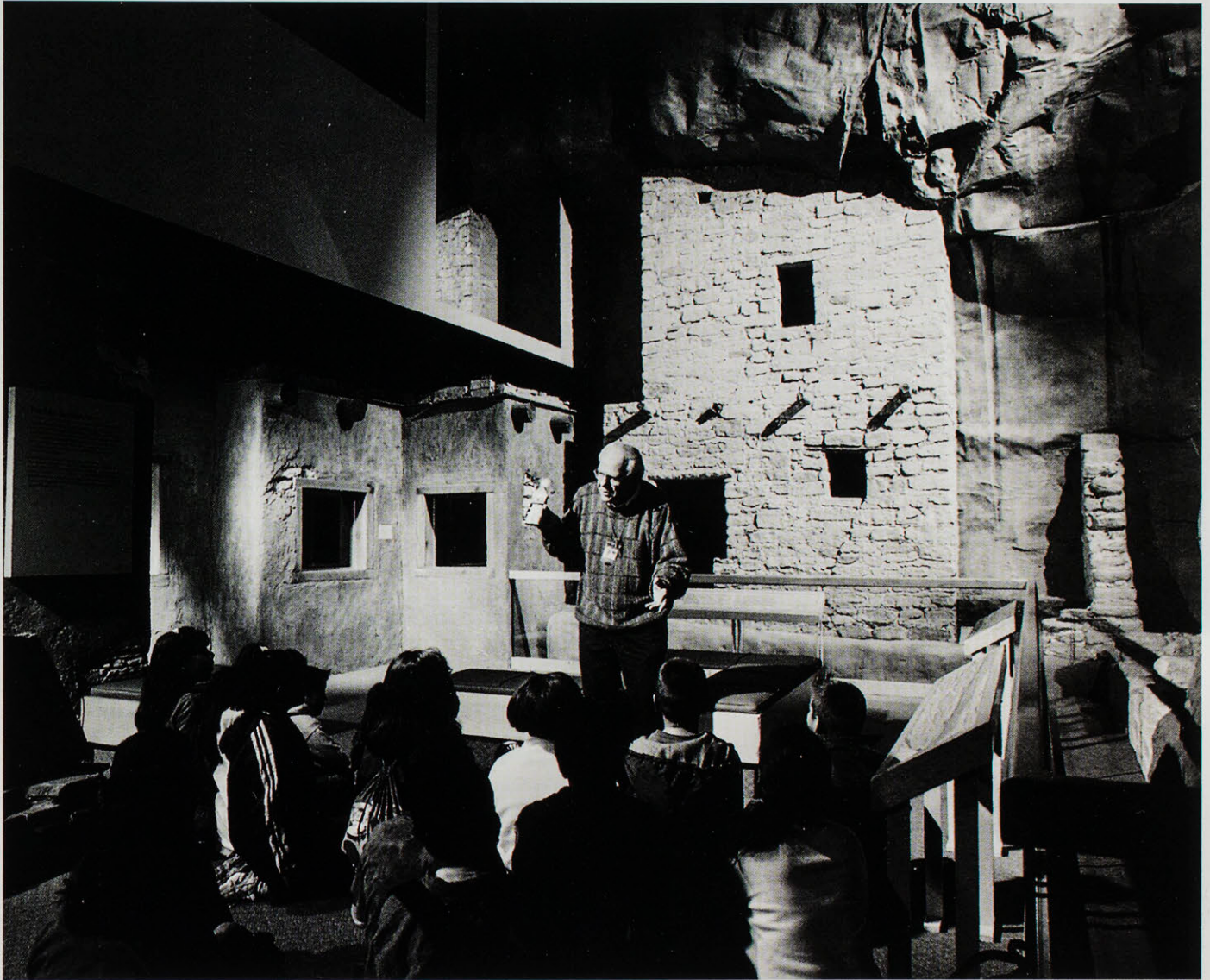
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In 1993, the Times Mirror Hall of Native American Cultures opened as a permanent installation at the Natural History Museum. The Pueblo dwellings are brought to life by stories and artifacts shared by over seventy volunteer touring docents, like Jim Verhein, speaking to the fourth graders of Jefferson Elementary School. The museum's educational program makes school tours available for every permanent hall, special exhibits, and the Discovery Center, and reaches over 150,000 school children every year. This hall is well placed: Los Angeles is home to the largest urban community of Native Americans in North America.



SALTILLO SERAPE

A gift to the museum by William Randolph Hearst in 1942, this classic Saltillo serape has never been on exhibit. Made of wool and cotton between 1700 and 1850 in northern Mexico, it is a masterpiece, tightly woven in two vertical panels with an elaborate, serrated-diamond medallion enclosing serrated lozenges, tiny diamonds, and connected hourglass devices. These patterns, in cochineal deep purple, red and pink, indigo light blue, vegetal blue-green, yellow and natural white, overlay a vertical mosaic field of zig-zag and serrated diamond columns. The red lattice border encloses diagonal rows of hourglasses in similar colors. The central open slit, which distinguishes it as a serape, has been sewn closed.

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T-REX SKULL

In the mid-1960s, Harley J. Gorbani discovered a treasure trove of *Tyrannosaurus rex* fossils in eastern Montana, including the *T-rex* which dominates the museum's grand foyer. This skull is of a juvenile *T-rex* and has long been among the museum's hidden treasures. Upon inspection, it turns out that the Natural History

Museum may be the only museum to have skull fossils that span a variety of ages (juvenile, subadult, adult) of this Tyrant Lizard King. Computer tomography images of the *T-rex* skulls show large olfactory bulbs, almost as big as the rest of the brain, indicating a superb sense of smell for this immense predator.

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Our displays allow people to measure their humanness against the scale of the rest of nature.

—Dr. James L. Powell, President and Director, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

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PSEUDO-WALRUS SKULL

Southern California six-tusked pseudo-walrus: *Gomphotaria pugnax* Barnes and Raschke

This single example of the species has never been on display and is very much a local creature. It was found in San Clemente, California, during a city-mandated paleontology mitigation program on a housing construction project and was named by Natural History Museum Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology, Dr. Lawrence G. Barnes, and Museum Associate, Rodney E. Raschke in 1991.

Living 6 to 8.5 million years ago, it apparently frequented shallow water and the intertidal zone and used its large canines to pry loose limpets, chitons, mussels, and abalone, crushing them with its cheek teeth.

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Among the more than 300,000 images housed in the museum's Seaver Center for Western History Research are a series of photographs taken from 1895 to 1904 by Adam Clark Vroman, a resident of Pasadena. Vroman traveled among the Native American peoples of Arizona and New Mexico, photographing their daily activities and architecture. His photographs of Pueblo and Navajo individuals attest to his skill as a portraitist.

Photographed in her holiday finery, a young woman from Acoma stands holding a water jar in 1900. The

distinctive patterns that embellish this vessel identify it as the work of an Acoma potter.

Vroman photographed Hostine Naz, opposite, a Navajo, in 1901. The Navajo language is closely related to other Athabascan languages spoken by the indigenous peoples of the interior of Alaska and western Canada. While linguistic evidence suggests that the Navajos are relative "newcomers" to the southwestern United States, opinions about the path of their journey and the date of their arrival differ.

BACK COVER: Conor David Levy tests for himself the stature of the Page Museum's Columbian mammoth with the yardstick of an eight-year-old boy, a jump.

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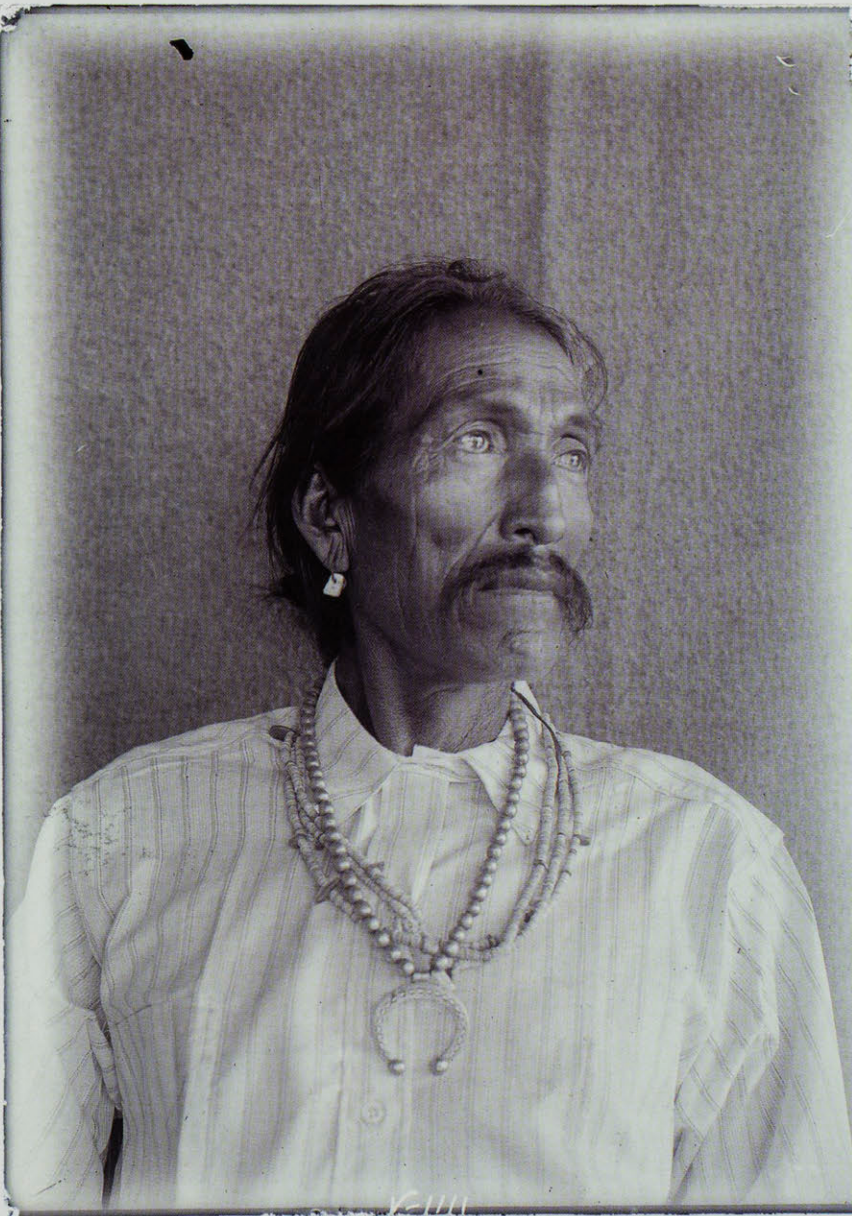
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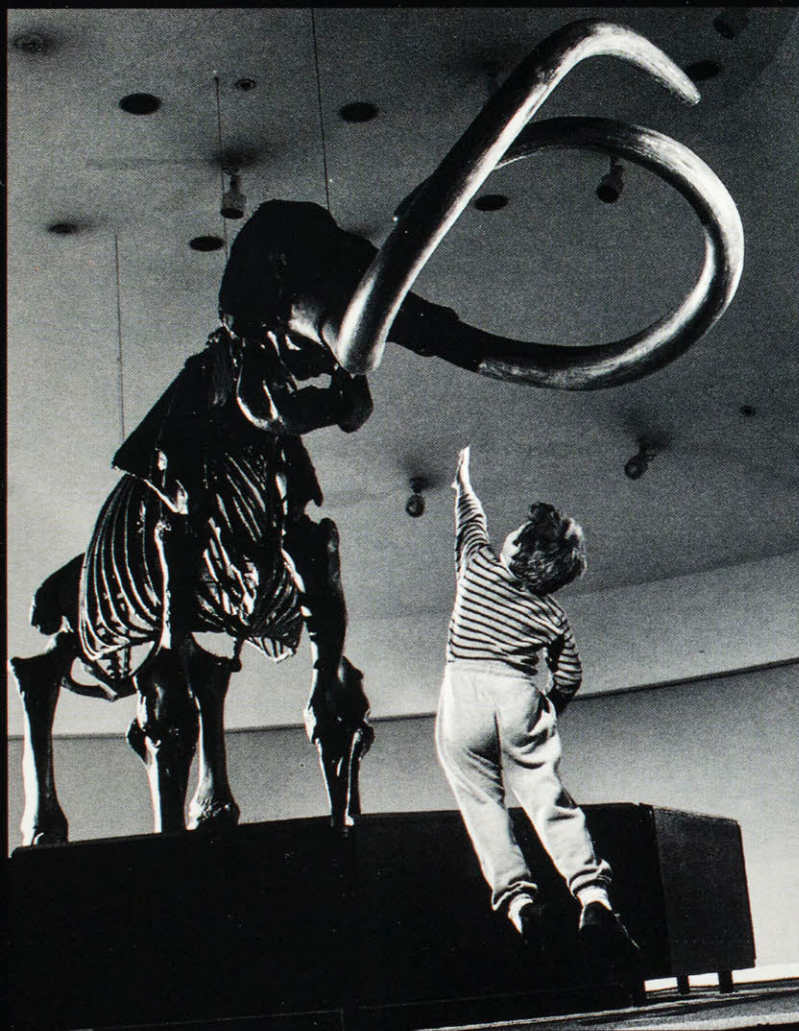
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NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY



Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

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900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles 90007
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General information 323/934-PAGE

◆
William S. Hart Museum
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General information 661/254-4584

On Exhibit

World Premiere

THE TINIEST GIANTS: Discovering Dinosaur Eggs

May 19 through October 14, 2001

In 1997, a paleontological research team led by Dr. Luis Chiappe, Associate Curator, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, and Dr. Lowell Dingus made an extraordinary discovery. While exploring the Argentine badlands of Patagonia and searching for the remains of ancient birds, they uncovered a large dinosaur nesting site with the fossil remains of thousands of eggs.

A national traveling exhibit has been developed by the Natural History Museum and will make its world premiere here, featuring the actual dinosaur eggs from the rugged dinosaur-nesting site.

From the badlands of Patagonia to the pulse of a working paleontology laboratory, visitors will be transported into the exciting world of dinosaur detectives. Learn about the latest research in Argentina and have the rare opportunity to see dinosaur embryo specimens and touch real embryonic dinosaur skin—the first ever discovered! Be amazed at how these gentle giant sauropods—the size of large buses—grew from eggs the size of a grapefruit! Experience sauropod egg nests that are 65 million years old and visit a working paleontology laboratory where scientists prepare dinosaur fossils. Visitors can even walk beneath a full-scale model of a giant fifty-two-foot titanosaur-*Argentinosaurus*.

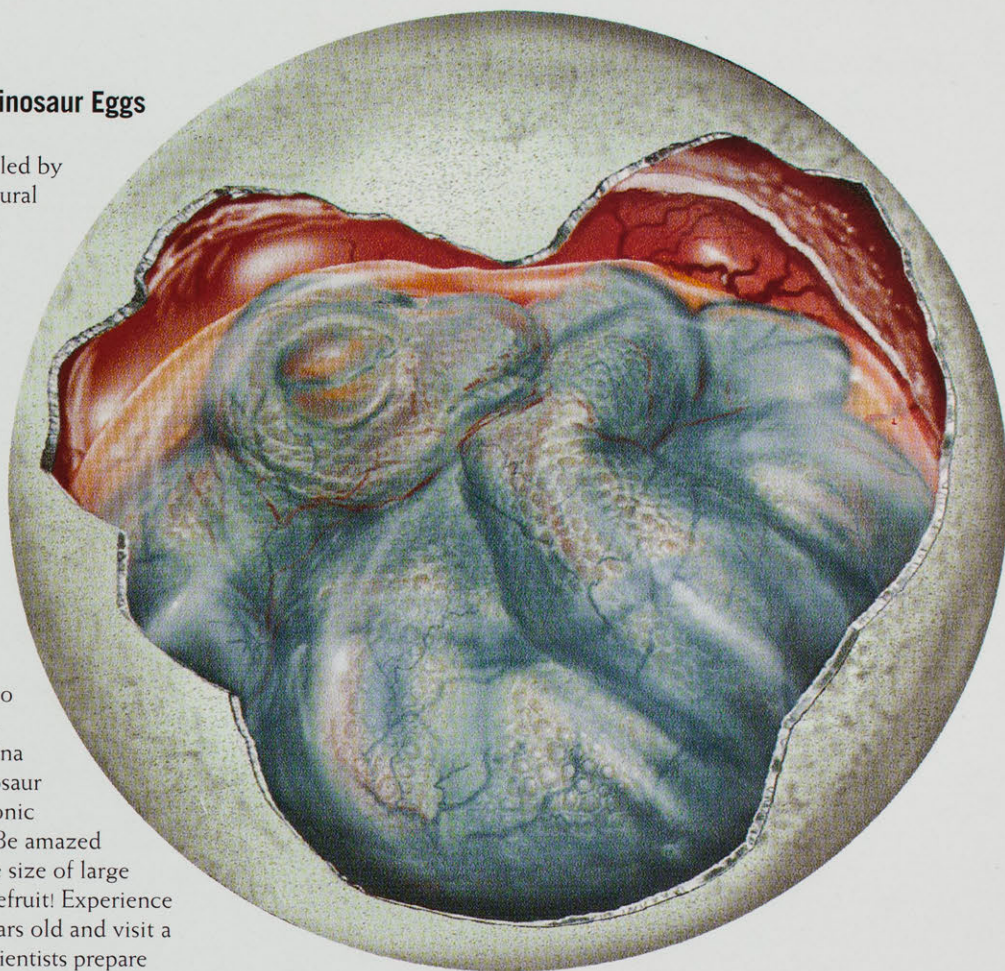


Illustration by Steve Melendrez

SAVE THESE DATES

The 30th Annual Open House

Exposition Park Museum

Thursday, April 26, 2001, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

A Special Night for Members Only

Food, Fun & Lots of Surprises, including activities for children

This is the night we throw open the doors, open all the floors, and let you travel "behind the scenes!" Meet curators and other staff members in their laboratories and offices.

We look forward to welcoming you at this popular, members-only event.

The Dinosaur Ball: Celebración de California

Exposition Park Museum

Saturday, May 12, 2001, 7:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

The Board of Trustees and the Alliance Board of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County invite you to attend Celebración de California, the Nineteenth Annual Dinosaur Ball, the museum's elegant black-tie gala. This year the museum will be honoring the Lieutenant Governor of California, Cruz Bustamante.

The evening will include a rededication of the newly revitalized California History Hall and the exhibition of the beautifully restored historic California Mission paintings by Edwin Deakin.

Tickets begin at \$350 per person; Diamond Patron tickets are \$500 and Patron tables begin at \$5,000. For more information, please call 213/763-3339.



NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

The Natural History Museum exists to advance knowledge and to enable people of all ages, backgrounds, and interests to understand and appreciate their natural and cultural heritage. The museum assembles, conserves, interprets, and holds in trust collections of irreplaceable objects from nature and human history. These collections reveal the history of the Earth and the evolution and diversity of life and culture. They sustain programs of research, exhibits, education, and publication.

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
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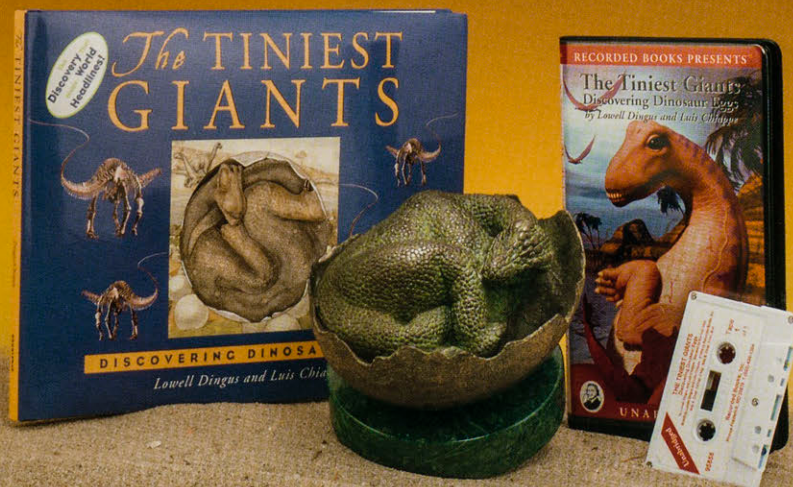
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The TINIEST Giants



Discovered in the remote badlands of Patagonia, a dinosaur nesting ground held a tiny treasure...Scattered across the hillside among the hundreds of fossilized dinosaur eggs, a tiny embryo was revealed...a baby dinosaur that would have grown up to be one of the giants of the planet.

Come learn about one of the most amazing discoveries of our time.

Hardback: *The Tiniest Giants* by Lowell Dingus and Luis Chiappe \$17.95

Audio: *The Tiniest Giants* by Lowell Dingus and Luis Chiappe \$22.00

Sculpture: Embryo Egg Sculpture by David Cellitti \$1500.00

The exhibit opens May 26, 2001

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